

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT 

SUBJECT Jachymov Mines

DATE DISTR. 12 March 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFO. 

REQUIREMENT NO. RD 50X1-HUM

PLACE ACQUIRED 

REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

50X1-HUM

## 1. Production of the various Jachymov pits is as follows:

- a. Barbara Pit Daily average, 400 kilograms.  
Monthly average, 12,000 kilograms.
- b. Eva Pit Monthly average, 24,000 to 30,000 kilograms.
- c. Panorama Pit Daily average, 200 to 3,000 kilograms. (sic).
- d. Bratrstvi Pit Daily average, 800 to 1,000 kilograms.
- e. Elias Pit Daily average, 1,200 to 1,300 kilograms.
- f. Playno Pit Daily average, 200 to 300 kilograms.

## 2. The Special Technical Control Department (Odborna technicka kontrola - OTK) at Horni Zdar - Vykmanov (N51/K71) is responsible for the grading of the uranium ore. The ore is handled as follows.

- a. When the ore is brought to the surface it is weighed in the carts by collector's instruments and then transported to the Grading Department (a wooden hut), where it is tilted out on the concrete floor. There it is sorted out into different piles and each pile is provided with a wooden board to indicate the origin of the ore. The ore is broken by hammers and put into special wooden cases according to the degree of activity. The types of ore are as follows.

- (1) Black ore, which is the purest.
- (2) Brown ore, the second purest grade.
- (3) Black ore called "soot", which is soft, moist and sticky.

50X1-HUM

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC	X
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	---

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

50X1-HUM

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

- (4) Ore hidden inside the stones, the presence of which can be ascertained only by the weight of the stones. This ore is called Ucko (U-ore) and is the weakest in radioactivity.
  - (5) Deaf ore (Hlusina), which has no radioactivity and is transported directly to the Special Technical Control Department.
  - (6) Ore contained in PbS (Galenit) in the form of veins or fine grains.
- b. The ore, graded and in boxes, is taken by truck to the Special Technical Control Department, where it is unloaded, measured, weighed in a special department called Radiometrie, and stored in special boxes.
  - c. By means of conveyor belts the ore is transported to grinding towers, where it is crushed. The grinding machines are cleaned after each crushing in order to avoid mixing the various ores.
  - d. The crushed ore is put into metal barrels 70 by 50 cm. in size, with lids 20 cm. in diameter, which are shaken on special vibration nets. The average weight of a barrel containing ore is 67 kg. If it contains pure ore the weight is 130 kg.
  - e. The barrels of ore are shifted to the Shipping Storehouse, where the barrels are closed and sealed and the lids provided with particulars such as number of barrel, month and year, pit and section of origin, weight and radioactivity.<sup>1</sup> The barrels thus marked go to the storage area and are shipped from there to the USSR.
- 3. There are two methods of packing the ore for shipment to the USSR. Ucko (U-ore) is loaded into closed freightcars and sealed, while the better quality ores are loaded, while still in the barrel, into the freightcars, which are then sealed.
  - 4. Before the ore is crushed it has to be turned over several times in order to get an even quality. Then a sample from each pile is taken to the laboratory, the samples are crushed into fine powder and this is tested and sent to the USSR as a sample of the corresponding barrel.
  - 5. Ucko (U-ore) which has been brought from the pits to the Special Technical Control Department is put on the concrete floor and from there it is loaded into wooden wagons, measured and weighed, put into piles, and shipped by freightcar. If some ore of good quality is found among the Ucko the whole lot is sent to the grinding towers and the procedure is the same as for the ores of better quality.
  - 6. The sealed freightcars are shipped from the Special Technical Control Department to the Ostrov (N51/K70) station. The cars are assembled into special trains which leave every three weeks for the USSR by way of Cierna. The average train consists of 18 to 20 cars. Such trains have been seen passing through Cesky Tesin (Q50/088).
  - 7. Each train has a guard of SNB men who travel in a special car at the front of the train. Whenever the train stops at a station each car is guarded by an SNB man. While in motion there are two-man guards at each end of the train manning light machine-guns ready for use. The engineers and firemen are civilians and trusted members of the CP.
  - 8. The freightcars used have special wide axles to which another set of wheels can be affixed, enabling the train to operate on the broad-gauge Russian rails.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 3 -

9. Czechoslovakia has been divided into sectors for the purpose of prospecting for uranium. In each sector a rubber balloon is blown up with local air, which is then tested in a laboratory. If the air being tested is found to contain radioactive elements, the area is searched. In drilling, a special pneumatic drill called Grelius is used. It is capable of drilling to a depth of 200 meters.
10. There are 300 people in the forced labor camp at Vykmanov.
1.  Comment: For example, Eva Pit: II - Section 4 ABI, 67 kg., radio-activity 87, May 1952.

50X1-HUM

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY